



Submission to the:

**Queensland Parliament Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
regarding the Human Rights Bill 2018 (the Bill).**

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Submitted by

Townsville Amnesty International Action Group

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About Amnesty International

Amnesty International is the world's largest independent human rights organisation, comprising more than seven million supporters in more than 160 countries.

Amnesty International is a worldwide movement to promote and defend all human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and other international human rights instruments. Amnesty International undertakes research focused on preventing and ending abuses of these rights.

Amnesty International is impartial and independent of any government, political persuasion or religious belief. Amnesty International Australia does not receive funding from governments or political parties.

About the Townsville Amnesty International Action Group

The Townsville Amnesty International Action Group has a mailing list of more than 400 supporters and an active core group of around 50 members. We have been campaigning for a Human Rights Act for Queensland for three years. Members of our group attended the recent Human Rights Bill Information Session presented by staff of the Anti-Discrimination Commission in Townsville.

Key feedback

In the course of our human rights activities in Townsville we have been surprised by the number of young people we have met who are unclear about the concept of human rights. Others, who are aware, were surprised that many of the rights they took for granted are not guaranteed in law. We believe the passing of the Human Rights Bill will be an important step in the development of a human rights culture in Queensland.

The Townsville Amnesty International Action group:

- Support the introduction of the Bill as we believe passing of the Bill will provide a fairer and more inclusive community for all Queenslanders by creating an overarching human rights dialogue across all arms of government.
- Would like to see the passing of the Bill as soon as possible to provide enforceable protection of human rights for all Queenslanders.
- Believe enforceability is critical and is needed to create a fairer and more inclusive community for all Queenslanders, and in particularly for people who are more vulnerable to experiencing violations of their human rights.

- support the inclusion of a complaint mechanism in the Bill, and are also supportive of the Bill being amended to enhance the complaints process to include a mechanism for a human rights complaint to be taken to a court or tribunal.

Conclusion

The Townsville Amnesty International Action Group thank the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for considering this submission.

We look forward to the Human Rights Bill being passed by Parliament.